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NRCS Approves 20 Project Areas to Receive Funding under Fiscal Year 2007 EQIP Colorado Invasive Plant Program

LAKEWOOD, CO - The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service in Colorado will provide more than one million dollars in cost-share assistance to fund 20 approved project areas for the FY 2007 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Colorado Invasive Plant Program.

The EQIP Colorado Invasive Plant Program is a voluntary program for landowners who want to improve the productivity of range and riparian lands for agriculture and wildlife by reducing the impact of noxious weeds.

Twenty project areas throughout Colorado, all of which have an existing and ongoing invasive plant species or weed management initiative, have been approved for funding assistance based on a recent call for proposals.

“Due to limited funding, only project areas identified by organizations, units of government, or other groups that have an existing program or organized effort to address invasive plant species were considered for funding,” said Tim Carney, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, Lakewood, CO.

The program is targeted to control invasive plant species and will be offered in limited geographical areas for watershed scale projects that will significantly reduce the abundance and impacts of newly emerging noxious weed species and improve the surrounding plant communities.

Individual landowners or groups of landowners can apply for funding within the approved project areas from **February 26 – March 30, 2007**. Landowners must submit an EQIP program application to their local USDA-NRCS Service Center. More information can be found on the Colorado website at <http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqip.html>.

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